

1 1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second
3 physician, the first and second physicians being coupled via a telecommunications system
4 to an intermediary having a processor and a storage device to which the processor has
5 access~~an intermediary via a telecommunications system~~, the method comprising the steps
6 performed in the intermediary using the processor of:

7 receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ a request for a consultation from the first physician
8 via the telecommunications system and storing the request in the storage device;

9 receiving a selection made by a staff physician in the intermediary of the second
10 physician, the second physician having an expertise in a specialty in which the
11 consultation is requested by the first physician;

12 sending ~~by the intermediary~~ the stored request to the selected second physician
13 via the telecommunications system;

14 receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ a comment made with regard to the consultation via
15 the telecommunications system from the selected second physician and storing the
16 comment;

17 providing the stored comment from the selected second physician to the first
18 physician via the telecommunications system;

19 ~~notifying a continuing medical education accreditation module in the intermediary~~
20 ~~that the consultation has been successfully concluded;~~

21 on conclusion of the consultation, recording information concerning the
22 consultation in a continuing medical education database accessible to the processor, the
23 information being associated with the first physician; and

24 creating an accreditation report for the first physician from the information in the
25 continuing medical education database, the accreditation report comprising a certification
26 of the continuing medical education credit earned by the first physician from participation
27 in the consultation.

1 2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 retrieving ~~by the intermediary~~ instructional material relevant to the comment and
4 the consultation selected by the staff physician from an information data base to which
5 the processor has access; and
6 providing the instructional material to the first physician via the
7 telecommunications system.

1 3. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 providing ~~by the intermediary~~ an examination based on at least the instructional
4 material to the first physician via the telecommunications system;
5 receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ via the telecommunications system answers for the
6 examination from the first physician ~~via the telecommunications system~~; and
7 receiving a grading by the intermediary grade for the received answers, the first
8 physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the
9 examination.

1 4. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 providing ~~by the intermediary~~ via the telecommunications system an examination
4 based on at least the comment to the first physician ~~via the telecommunications system~~;
5 receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ answers for the examination from the first physician
6 ~~via the telecommunications system~~; and
7 ~~grading by the intermediary~~ thereceiving a grade for the received answers, the
8 first physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes
9 the examination.